

School of Professor Brock

**BADGER
FACTS**

Level **Standard**

Where do badgers live?

Badgers live underground in a **SETT**; a network of tunnels and nesting chambers

Badgers spend about 70% of their lives underground

A badger clan may have multiple SETTS in their large **TERRITORY**. Only one will be their **MAIN SETT** which is the family home inhabited all year

Badgers are prodigious diggers & can extend their home readily. Sadly the number of holes does not tell us how many badgers live in a sett

Keeping COMFORTABLE

- The sett keeps badgers dry in the rain, warm in Winter and cool in Summer, with little temperature variation between night & day
- Badgers sleep separately in Summer and together in Winter for extra warmth
- They line nesting chambers with bedding shredded from vegetation. This keeps them off the cold earth floor
- Bedding ferments and releases heat, allowing badgers to use it as a natural radiator - how cool is that

Keeping VENTILATED

How do badgers ensure they have enough oxygen underground?

- Wind blows in through the multiple entrances
- The piston effect - their own movement causes air to move in and out of the sett

Tree roots are often used to support tunnels

Setts are mostly found on slopes in woodland or hedgerows. A large spoil heap often shows their location

Width 30cm

Tunnels - 20 to 100 metres long!

Keeping CLEAN

- Badgers do not usually go to the loo inside the sett but might use a single chamber if they have to
- Badgers refresh bedding regularly to reduce parasites
- Green bedding may even have insecticidal properties. Wow!

Keeping TIDY

Spare bedding might be stored in an unused chamber; their very own laundry cupboard to keep tunnels clear

Keep OUT!

A latrine immediately outside the sett entrance is a message to others: Keep out!

Nonetheless, foxes and rabbits may move into a disused sett or even a disused part of an active sett

Most tunnels are less than a metre below ground but can be deeper